



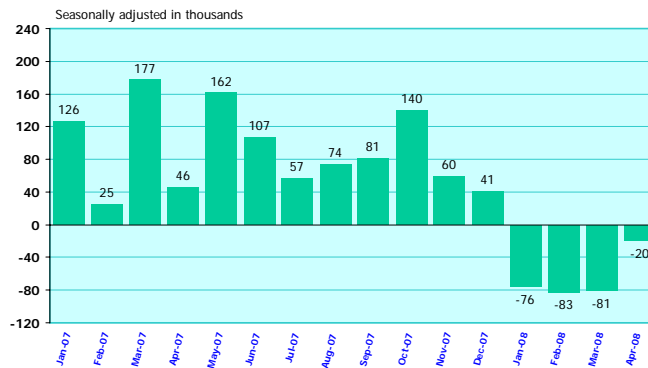
# **Current Employment Statistics**

## **Highlights**

**April 2008**

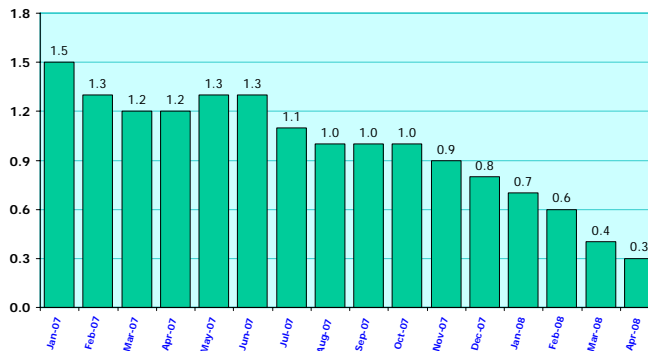
Bureau of Labor Statistics  
May 2, 2008

### Employment in total nonfarm Over-the-month change, 2007-08



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, May 2, 2008.  
Note: Most recent two months of data are preliminary.

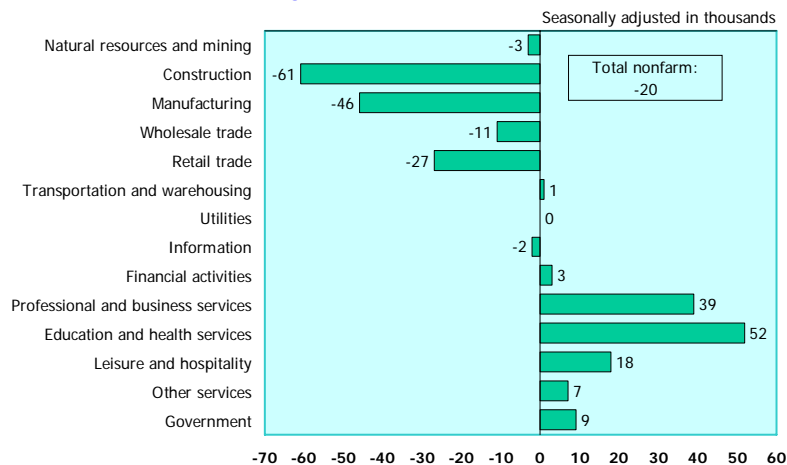
### B-3. Employment in total nonfarm Over-the-year percent changes, 2007-08



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, May 2, 2008.  
Note: Most recent two months of data are preliminary.

- In April, employment in total nonfarm payrolls was little changed (-20,000). This comes after a 3-month decline totaling 240,000 jobs.
- The over-the-year percentage change in total nonfarm payroll employment continues to slow. In fact, the rate has declined over each of the last 6 months.

## Employment in total nonfarm Over-the-month change, April 2008

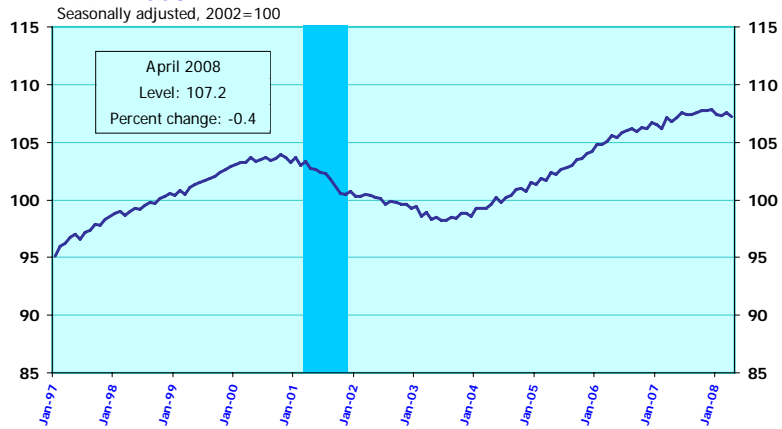


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, May 2, 2008.

Note: Data are preliminary.

- The goods-producing sector dropped 110,000 jobs in April led by jobs losses in construction and manufacturing.
- The service-providing sector gained 90,000 jobs in April. Jobs gains were led by education and health services and professional and business services. Retail trade experienced the only significant job loss among service providing industries.

## Index of total private aggregate weekly hours 1997-2008



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, May 2, 2008.

Notes: Shaded area denotes recession. Most recent two months of data are preliminary.

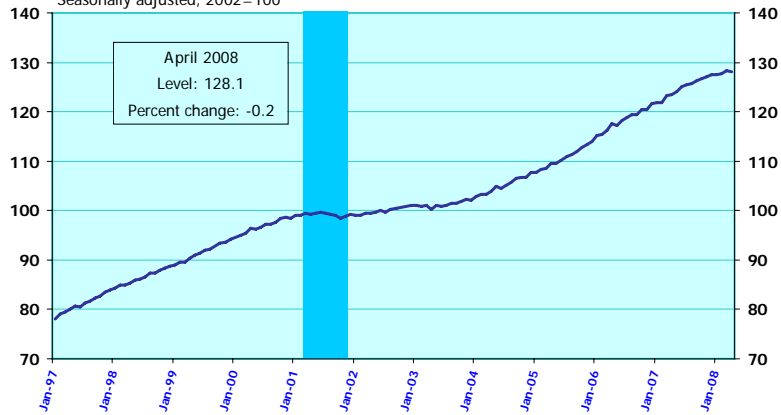
Aggregate weekly hours are the product of average weekly hours and production and nonsupervisory workers.

- In April, the average weekly hours of production and nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls fell by 0.1 hour to 33.7. The workweek has fluctuated no more than 0.1 hour from 33.8 hours, seasonally adjusted, since November 2004. The index of total private aggregate weekly hours fell by 0.4 percent in April.

## Index of total private aggregate weekly payrolls

1997-2008

Seasonally adjusted, 2002=100

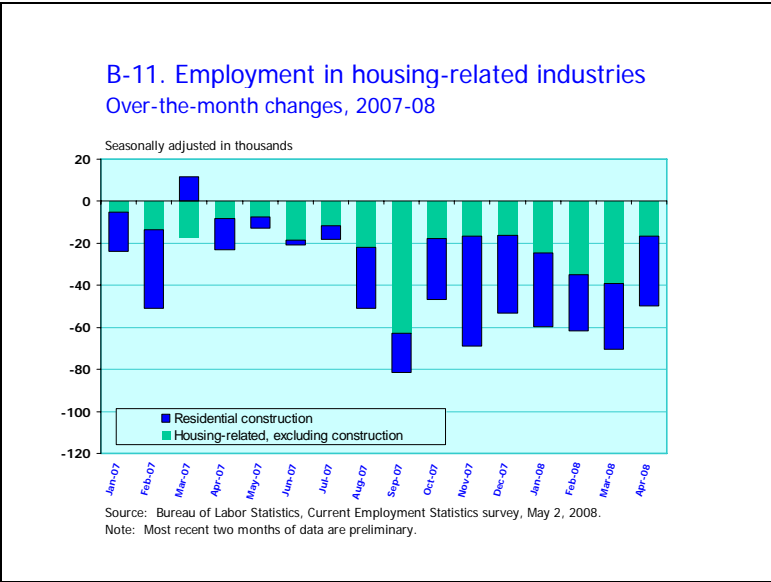
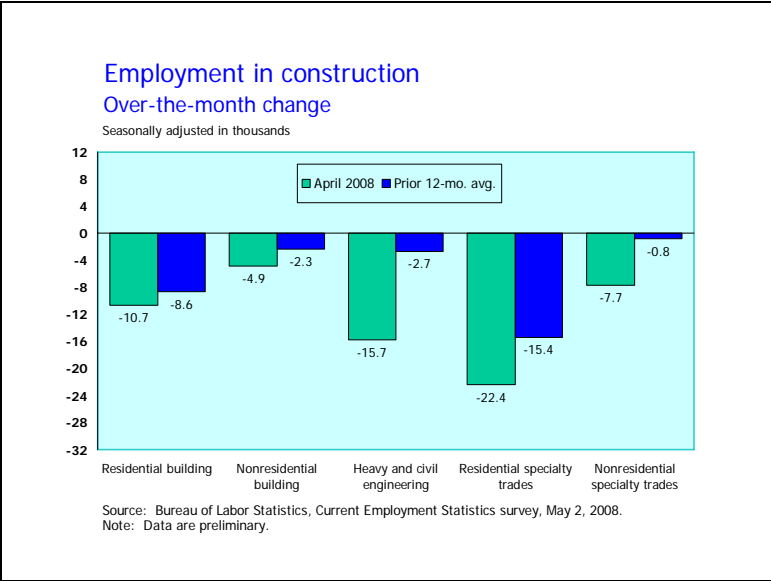


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, May 2, 2008.

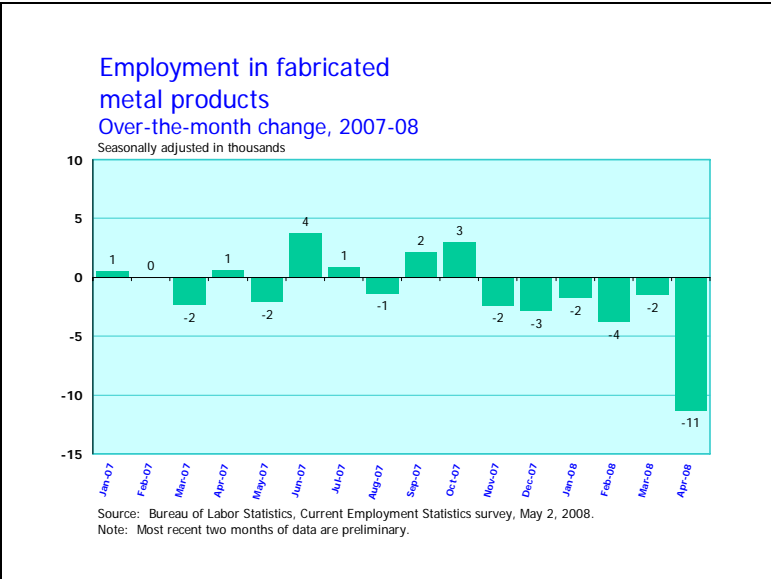
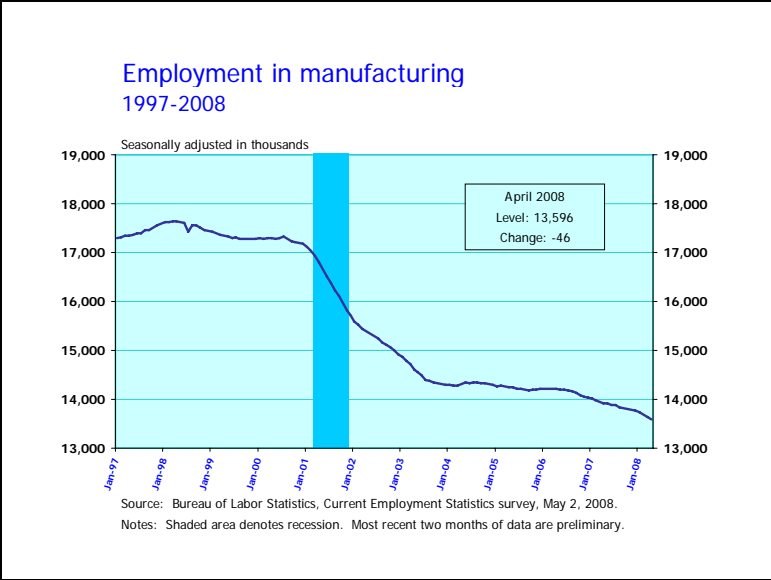
Notes: Shaded area denotes recession. Most recent two months of data are preliminary.

Aggregate weekly payrolls are the product of average hourly earnings, average weekly hours, and production and nonsupervisory workers.

- In April, average hourly earnings for production and nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls experienced the smallest change since May 2006, edging up by 1 cent to \$17.88. Over the past 12 months, average hourly earnings have increased by 3.4 percent.
- The index of total private aggregate weekly payrolls fell 0.2 percent in April. The index has grown by 3.8 percent over the past 12 months.

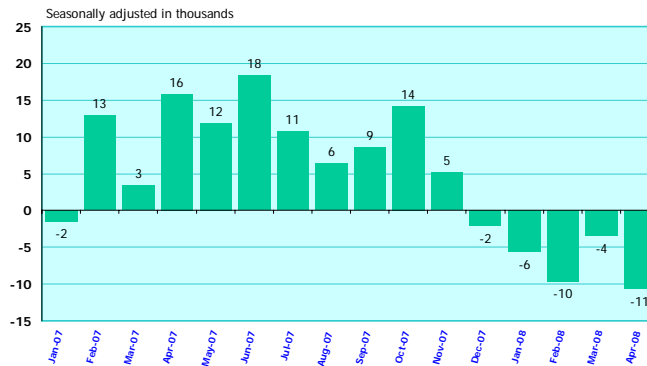


- Employment in construction declined by 61,000 in April, as losses were spread between the residential and nonresidential components. Since peaking in September 2006, employment in the industry has fallen by 457,000.
- The downturn in the housing market has affected employment in other industries besides construction, such as home centers and real estate credit.



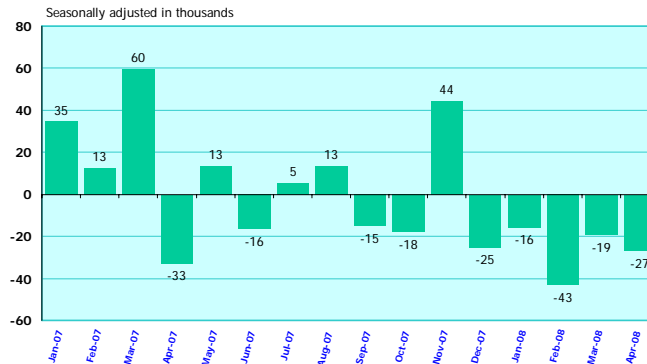
- Manufacturing employment decreased by 46,000 in April and by 326,000 over the past 12 months. Over the month, the manufacturing workweek declined by 0.3 hour to 40.9 hours and overtime fell by 0.1 hour to 3.9 hours.
- Nearly all of the job losses occurred in durable goods manufacturing. Losses occurred in motor vehicles and parts (-17,000) and in fabricated metal products (-11,000). Declines also occurred in furniture and related products (-4,000) and in semiconductors and electronic components (-3,000).

### Employment in wholesale trade Over-the-month change, 2007-08



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, May 2, 2008.  
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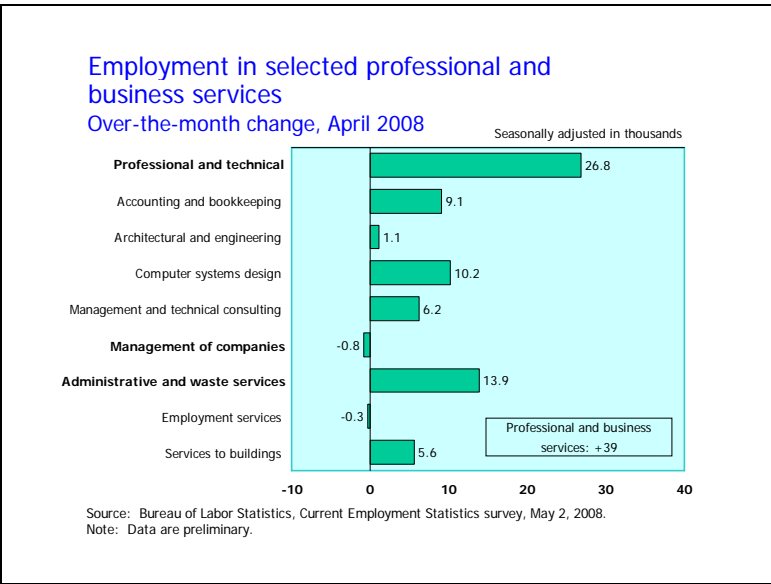
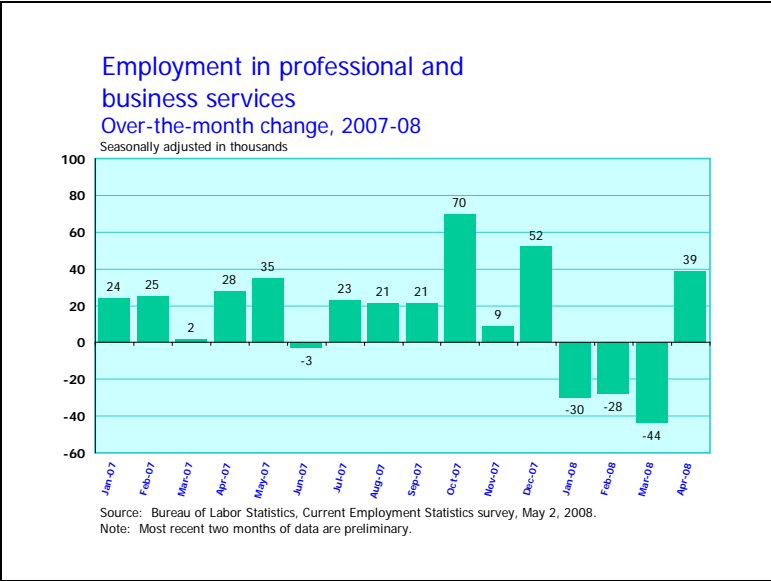
### Employment in retail trade Over-the-month change, 2007-08



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, May 2, 2008.  
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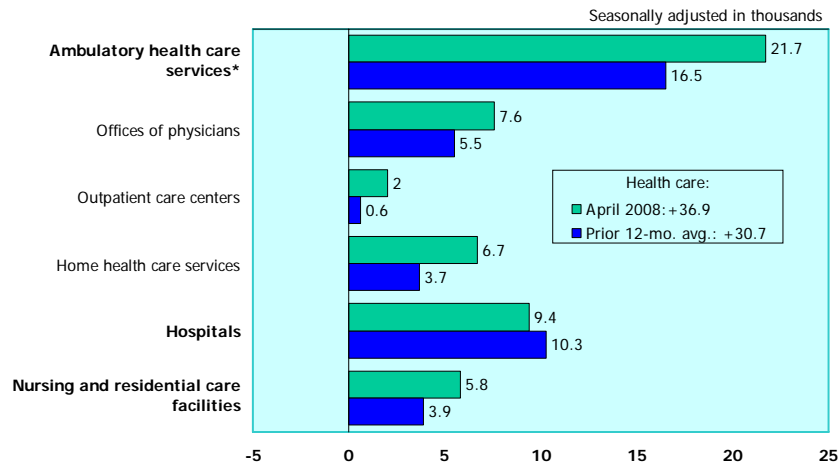
- Wholesale trade employment continued to edge down in April. Since November 2007, employment in this industry has declined by an average of 6,000 per month, contrasting with the average monthly job growth of 11,000 over the prior 12-month period.
- Employment in retail trade continued to trend down, with a decrease of 27,000 in April. Since reaching a peak in March 2007, the industry has shed 137,000 jobs. Over the month, job losses continued in building material and garden supply stores (-12,000) and in department stores (-8,000).





- In April, professional and business services gained 39,000 positions after shedding 102,000 jobs during the first quarter of 2008.
- Professional and technical services employment rose by 27,000 in April. Computer systems design added 10,000 jobs over the month and employment in accounting and bookkeeping services edged up by 9,000.
- Employment in employment services was little changed in April, though temporary help services jobs continued to trend down.

## Employment in health care Over-the-month change, April 2008



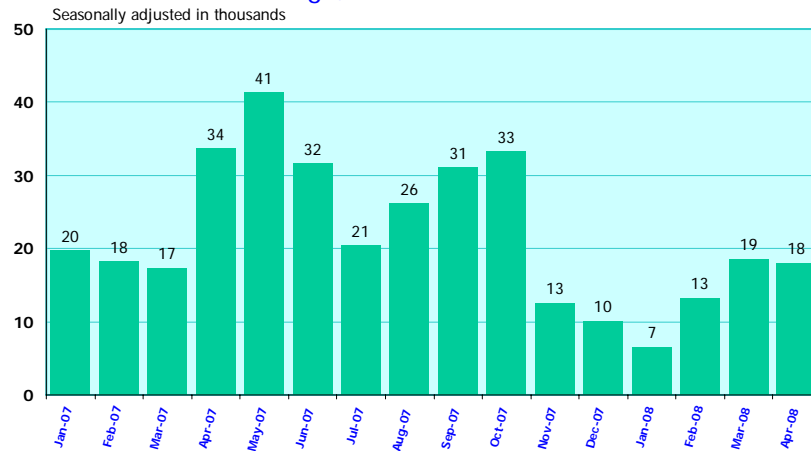
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, May 2, 2008.

Note: Data are preliminary.

\* Includes additional component industries not shown separately.

- Employment in health care continued to increase in April with a gain of 37,000. This industry has added 365,000 over the past 12 months. In April, there were gains of 22,000 in ambulatory health care services and of 9,000 in hospitals.

## Employment in food services and drinking places Over-the-month change, 2007-08



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, May 2, 2008.

Note: Most recent two months of data are preliminary.

- Employment continued to trend upward in food services in April (18,000), although job gains have slowed over the past 6 months. Since October 2007, food services employment has grown by an average of 13,000 per month; this compares to the average increase of 28,000 jobs per month for the preceding 12 months.